

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Judiciary Committee,

Please join me in OPPOSITION to SB16 and HB5416.

I have some specific concerns about S.B 016, particularly in regard to the proposed ban on arm brace firearms. As of today, there is no concrete evidence that points to higher gun ownership causing higher crime rates. To prohibit the purchase of guns outfitted with an arm brace in an attempt to prevent violent crime is an exercise in futility. At best, this ban would be reducing the capacity of law-abiding individuals to lawfully defend themselves and, at worst, this could be considered a violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Not only is this ban discriminatory towards individuals that require an arm brace to safely operate a firearm, it also is a hindrance to ALL law-abiding citizens of CT that wish to own a tool that allows them to defend themselves. In light of the events currently unfolding in Ukraine where ordinary citizens are being asked to defend their freedom, this represents a very real and legitimate concern.

Further, the proposed ban on the carrying of legally owned firearms on public transit is classist and discriminatory towards those who are unable to afford other means of transportation. Limiting the options of law-abiding citizens will not reduce the instances of violent crime. A far more effective solution to the issue of violent crime would be to invest in the economies and education systems of the areas most greatly impacted by violent crime so that there are fewer people that feel that they need to resort to crime to survive in the first place.

As far as HB 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS – There is no evidence that this would prohibit crime. This would have a far greater negative impact on law-abiding citizens by preventing a legal gun owner from transferring a collection to say a family member. Given that there are already laws in place that prohibit an individual from buying a firearm on behalf of another individual. If someone is already buying multiple firearms to sell to another person then they have already broken the law and should be prosecuted for doing so. The proposed law will have little to no incremental effect on discouraging individuals from committing crimes relating to the illegal sale of firearms.

I SUPPORT Raised S.B. No. 388 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.

I SUPPORT Raised H.B. No. 5415 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

I SUPPORT Raised H.B. No. 5412 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

Respectfully,

Michael Baranowski